

Schedule of Events

November 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

December 7 ISEE Test Given at MJHS

December 17-19 Semester Exams

December 20 Winter Break Begins

January 25 Facing History and Ourselves presents "Blessed is the Match." It is the first feature documentary about Hannah Senesh, the World War II-era poet and diarist who became a paratrooper, resistance fighter, and modern-day Joan of Arc. It begins at 7 p.m.

February 1 ISEE Test Given at MJHS

D'var Torah presented by Logan Bierman

In this week's parsha, Sarah dies and Avraham goes to find a gravesite:

"Give me a possession of a burying-place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

The Hittites seem very happy to give him one of their caves:

"Hear us, my lord...in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead; none of us shall withhold from thee his sepulchre, but that thou mayest bury thy dead."

Avraham specifically wanted the caves belonging to Ephron, son of Tzohar. The Hittites and Ephron were more than happy to just let him bury Sarah in their grave-field.

But Avraham was very specific about wanting to **buy** the land and the grave field for Sarah's burial.

"I pray thee, hear me: I will give the price of the field; take it of me, and I will bury my dead there."

The question is, why was that so important to Avraham? If the people were so nice to him and if he was offered to bury Sarah for free, why did he insist on buying the grave and the field?

To understand this story, we have to explain something very basic. Based on archeological findings, we know that in ancient days (up to the end of the first temple), the burials were in caves, where they would lay the bodies for one year. After the year, all that was left of the bodies was the bones. They put the bones in a box and buried them. When Avraham asked to buy the land, he wanted more than a burial, he wanted ownership of a piece of the land where the promise of G-D will begin to come true.

The Hittites and Ephron were not so happy about it. They did not want him to have land among them. They offered him their caves for only a year. Then he will move on, and they will keep their land. That obviously did not satisfy Avraham at all. He was not looking for a one-year deal. He was looking for land and property in Israel where G-D's promise would start to come true.

This is why Avraham insisted on buying the land and not just renting it from Ephron. He wanted a place that all his family could refer to as the place that their parents and grandparents are buried. Ephron kept arguing with Avraham, but after Avraham offered almost double the actual price, Ephron accepted. Avraham bought the land, and today it is the burial site of our matriarchs and patriarchs.

You have to understand that in other places during ancient times when someone asked you your name they wanted your name and where you're from as well as where your family is buried because that is a connection to the land.

Shabbat Shalom.

Open Invitation Anytime!

The Memphis Jewish High School invites you to come for a tour of our school! We have been busy this past month giving tours of the school and hosting prospective students for a day of classes. Dr. Elizabeth Brock McBride, Head of School, remarked, "The students that have visited our school are very impressed with our program and our facility. I think they especially enjoy having a lap top computer for the day when they visit our classes!"

Call 901.767.4818 for a tour or a day of shadowing.

Beth Shalom Welcomes Our Administration

The Beth Shalom Board welcomed the MJHS administration to a meeting to present the excellent General Studies and Judaic Studies programs. Dr. McBride, Dr. Cowett and Mr. Gellman were delighted to tell the group of the stellar faculty, state of the art facility and equipment and all the ways we provide for the individual needs of each student.

Solomon Schechter Visited by MJHS

Student Body President Logan Belz and Student Ambassadors Monte Eiseman and Courtney Thomas were joined by Dr. McBride and Mr. Gellman for a presentation at Solomon Schechter today. A video was created by Parker Mantell and a slide show was presented to the Middle School. The students did a wonderful job describing all the programming and activities that we offer at MJHS.

ISEE Test Site

We are pleased to announce that MJHS will be host to the ISEE for the dates of December 7 and February 1. Both exams will begin check-in at 9:00 a.m. and the test will begin at 9:30.

The Independent School Entrance Examination (ISEE) is a three-hour admission test for entrance into grades five through twelve required by private schools. MJHS is the only school in the region that will administer the test on Sundays.

Students may register for the ISEE test online at www.erbtest.com. The ISEE may only be taken once within a six-month period, and it must be taken for admission to a school, not as a practice test.

The registration deadline for the December test is November 16th. The registration deadline for the February test is January 11th. If applicants have any questions, they may call MJHS at 767-4818.

Mazal Tov

To **Yossi and Yona Cohen** on their wedding anniversary!

Toda-Raba

- To **Courtney Thomas, Logan Belz and Monte Eiseman** for presenting our school to the 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Solomon Schechter today!
- To the **Besser and Rubin families** for hosting the lunches at our Shabbaton this past weekend!
- To **Bracha Udelson** for a wonderful presentation at Kabbalat Shabbat today!
- To **Parker Mantell** for creating a wonderful video of MJHS!

- To **Alex Nahon** for being available for technical problem solving so often for the school!
- To **Rabbi Aaron Fiegenbaum** for his activity with our students on Shabbat morning in Baron Hirsch.
- To **Rabbi Joey and Elisa Friedman** for hosting the Oneg at their home.